Withdrawal of I.P.K.F. from Sri Lanka

2718. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Agreement with Sri Lanka despatch and withdrawal of IPKF is only connected with Sri Lankan Government's wishes;

(b) whether there is any categorical clause making IPKF withdrawal conditional on certain other factors; if so, what is the specific clause to this effect; and

(c) whether Government are going to comply with the wishes of Sri Lankan Government to withdraw the IPKF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) As the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement is a bilateral one, such decisions have to be taken through mutual consent.

(b) The IPKF is in Sri Lanka under the terms of ISLA to help in the implementation of the Agreement and to ensure the physical safety and security of all communities in the North-Eastern Province. The withdrawal of the IPKF is therefore linked to these considerations.

(c) Government has held consultations with the Sri Lankan Government in this regard. This matter can be decided only through mutual consultations.

Misappropriation of Money by a Cashier of Indian High Commission in Singapore

2719. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a case involving misappropriation of about Rs. 5.36 lakhs, (67,000 Singapore dollars) by a Cashier of the Indian High Commission in Singapore had been settled by the High Commissioner out of court, on refund of money by the Cashier and also after owning responsibility; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the case and how it was settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mrs. Leela Pillai, a locally recruited Singapore national, deployed as Cashier in the Consular Wing of the High Commission of India, Singapore, misappropriated a total amount of Singapore dollars 62,970|- (Equivalent to Indian Rupees 3,65,680|-) from out of the Mission's consular revenue during the period from August 1987 to July 1988. On detection of the misappropriation in August 1988, the matter was reported to the Singapore Police for recovery of the defalcated amount and for appropriate action against Mrs. Pillai for criminal breach of trust. The service of Mrs. Leela Pillai were terminated with effect from 1st September, 1988. While the investigation by the Singapore Police was in progress, Mrs. Pillai submitted a letter of apology in April 1989 to the High Commission owning reesponsibility and liability for any discrepancy and shortage in the accounts during the period she was Cashier. Simultaneously, the High Commission was given a Bank Draft for Singapore dollars 62,970|- as full payment to make good the shortage in the consular revenues. Mrs. Pillai pleaded with the High Commission not to proceed with the investigation any further.

In view of the full refund of the defalcated amount, the Ministry of External Affairs decided not to pursue the case against Mrs. Pillai for prosecution. It was also considered

that the prosecution of the case, if pursued, would have entailed avoidable additional expenditure to the Government of India by way of legal and other expenses.

Financial grant from states for laying railway lines

2720. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States which have made declaration for providing of financial grant for laying railway lines in their States; and

(b) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) From 1986 to 1988 only Kerala and Maharashtra offered following assistance for laying Railway lines in their States:

S. No.	State Govt.	Rly	Project	Details of contribution
1	Maharashtra	Central	Mankhurd-Belapur suburban Rly line	2/3rd of the total cost estimated to be Rs. 132 crores.
2	Kerala	Southern	Eranakulam-Alleppey new BG Rly line.	Supply of wooden sleepers free of cost and 4.42 hectares of Poramboke land.

Issuance of passport to Imam Bukhari

2721. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passport of Imam Bukhari had been impounded long back for some criminal charges against him;

(b) whether all those cases have been satisfactorily disposed of or are still pending; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that he travelled to Tehran recently; if so, what type of passport was issued to him and under what circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some cases against him are reportedly pending in different courts.

(c) He was issued a short validity passport recently for his travel to Tehran to attend the funeral ceremonies of Ayotollah Khomenei.

भारत नेपाल संबंधों का खराब होना

2722. श्री **विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत-नेपाल संबंधों में कुछ तनाव की स्थिति रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या-क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस तनाव के कारण नेपाल की ग्राम जनता को कष्ट उठाना पड़ रहा है ;